

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served upon the OTA, GTE, and Ameritech; their respective counsel; and upon all interested persons of record in this docket.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Craig A. Glazer, Chairman

Jolynn Barry Butler

Ronda Hartman/Fergus

David W. Johnson

DEF:geb

Concurs + dissent
Concurs + dissent

Entered in the Journal

DEC 12 1996

A True Copy

Gary E. Vigorito
Secretary

APPENDIX A

Statement of Policy

For purposes of this policy, all regulated telephone services provided by a local service provider, except toll service, shall be defined as local service. This policy shall apply for both residential and nonresidential customers.

Local service providers shall be permitted to disconnect a customer's local service for nonpayment of charges incurred for local service pursuant to the minimum telephone service standards currently established in Chapter 4901:1-5, O.A.C. (except to the extent these are specifically suspended by the Commission) and as they may come to be amended by the Commission in the future.

When a local service provider disconnects toll service for nonpayment of either its own toll debt or that of another toll service provider, the method of toll disconnection which it utilizes:

- (1) must not be permitted to function as a vehicle by which the (nonpaying) toll subscriber is denied 1+ access, through presubscription, to any other toll service provider besides the one whose provision of toll service has precipitated the toll disconnection;
- (2) must be available, by tariff, on a nondiscriminatory basis to all toll service providers, and
- (3) may consist of either a dePICing mechanism or else a selective toll blocking service.

Except as otherwise specifically provided by the Commission in Case No. 95-790-TP-COI, including through any company-specific Commission approval granted pursuant to the limited waiver process established in that case, no local service provider may be permitted to "universally" block access to all toll service for the nonpayment of toll charges owed to any particular toll service provider or group of toll service providers. Neither purchase of the toll provider's accounts receivable by the local service provider, nor a requirement that the local service provider shall be the billing and collection agent for the toll provider, shall be established as a necessary precondition imposed by the local service provider in connection with its tariffed toll carrier disconnection service offering.

Local service providers shall not be permitted to disconnect a customer's local service for nonpayment of charges incurred by the customer for toll service.

Partial payments must be apportioned to regulated local service charges first before being applied by a local service provider to any toll charges.

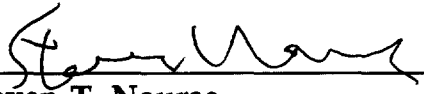
The procedural and substantive safeguards which are afforded to applicants for local exchange service and to subscribers of local exchange service under Chapter 4901:1-5, O.A.C., as pertains to billing, establishing credit/deposits, and to disconnection, shall also inure to applicants for toll service and to subscribers of toll service, regardless of whether such toll service is provided by a local exchange company or a interexchange carrier. This requirement that the billing, credit/deposit, and disconnection standards now applicable to the provision of local exchange service by local exchange companies should, for now, also have equal application to the provision of toll service by all toll service providers amounts to an interim policy which shall remain in place, unless the Commission orders otherwise, pending the Commission's ultimate disposition of Case No. 96-1175-TP-ORD and any subsequent Commission orders.

Essentially, this policy will protect the ability of service providers to disconnect any specific service: local service, when charges for local service have been incurred but have not been paid by the subscriber; or toll service, when charges for toll service have not been paid. However, this policy, by segregating local and toll service, will also ensure that customers who pay for local service in an appropriate and timely manner will no longer be threatened with disconnection of local service for nonpayment of toll charges.

As regards local service disconnections, the disconnection notice which a local service provider is required to provide, pursuant to Rule 4901:1-5-34(C)(3), O.A.C., must inform the subscriber of the total amount which the subscriber would need to pay in order to avoid disconnection of local service. Such notice must also inform the subscriber of the local service provider's legal obligation to provide "only local" service to customers whose outstanding local service charges are paid, even while their toll service is disconnected for nonpayment of outstanding toll debt.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing comments **In the Matter of Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service** was served by regular U.S. mail, postage prepaid, or hand-delivered, upon the following parties of record, this 18th day of December, 1996.



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